

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DOTE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SPC-03

AID-20 NSC-10 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 012189

R 030852Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8513

UNCLAS TOKYO 15632

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: CONTINUED LABOR UNREST

REF: TOKYO 15231

1. SLOWDOWNS ALREADY DISRUPTING TRAIN SCHEDULES AS JAPANESE RR UNIONS VANGUARD PUBLIC CORPORATION AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISE SECOND WAVE STRIKES STARTING DEC 4 TO SUPPORT DEMANDS FOR SPECIAL INFLATION ALLOWANCE. PRIVATE SECTOR TRANSPORT STRIKES NOVEMBER 30 WERE NOT SERIOUS AS MOST FIRMS SETTLED AND RESTORED SERVICE EARLY IN DAY. DEC 4 PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKE HOWEVER EXPECTED TO DISRUPT FREIGHT DELIVERIES AND ADVERSELY AFFECT OVER 2 MILLION COMMUTERS. BESIDES RAIL STRIKES, POSTAL, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE UNIONS PLANNING DISPUTE TACTICS RANGING FROM SHORT SPOT STRIKES TO 24 HOURS STOPPAGES. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS' UNION (JICHIRO) AND TEACHERS (NIKKYOSO) ALSO SCHEDULING ONE TO TWO HOUR STRIKES IN SUPPORT OF INFLATION ALLOWANCE DEMANDS.

2. IN VIEW HIGH YEAR-END BONUS PAYMENTS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY (STEELWORKERS WON 48.5 PERCENT, ELECTRICAL WORKERS 32-43 PERCENT, AND TEXTILES REPORTEDLY 100-117 PERCENT INCREASE). PUBLIC SECTOR RANK-AND-FILE ADAMANT TO WIN SIMILAR BENEFITS. UNION

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LEADERSHIP COMPELLED TO USE AGGRESSIVE DISPUTE

TACTICS FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR JOBS.

3. GOJ POSITION STILL OPPOSED TO INFLATION ALLOWANCE BUT THERE
ARE INDICATIONS CONCESSIONS POSSIBLE IF DIET WERE TO MAKE
ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE. BUT BEFORE THAT ANOTHER
DAY OF CHAOTIC RAIL DISRUPTION IS EXPECTED. PUBLIC REACTION AT
PRESENT SEEMS TO DIVIDE BLAME BETWEEN GOJ AND UNIONS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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